Supply of Food articles to Fair Price-Shops

433. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to some repotrs which appeared in the last week of January, 92 that Delhi Administration has taken several steps to ensure timely supply of food articles to Fair Price Shops in Delhi ;

(b) if so, he details hereof ;

(c) whether Government are aware that 90 per cent Fair Price Shops in Delhi were not supplied food articles till 15th February, 92 ; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure timely supply of food articles in Fair Price Shops ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKET SWAMY) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Delhi Administration has been monitoring the availability of food articles in PDS outlets to ensure timely supplies.

(c) and (d) Supply and availability of essential commodities in all the zones in Delhi is being monitored regularly, in consultation with the agencies involved. Steps are taken to reach the PDS commodtties to the fair price shops as and when reports about non-receipt of commodities by shops are received. Regular monitoring of the PDS is contiuously done at various levels of the Delhi Administration. Delhi Administration has reported that it is not correct to say that 90% of the Fair Price Shops in the Union Territory were not supplied food articles till 15-2-92.

Sale of Agmark Flour through Fair Price Shops

434. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to some repotts which appeared in the last week of January, 92 the Delhi Administration has made elaborate arrangements to sell Agmark flour through Fair Price Shops of Delhi from first week of February, 1992.

(b) whether it is a fact that prior to these reports Delhi Administration had given much publicity in the past for sale of Agmark flour through Fair Price Shops ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that instruction have been issued to Fair Price Shops to deposit payment by 10th of February to ensure supply of Agmark flour to them ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that not a single food card holder in Delhi has been given Agmark flour through F.P.Ss. upto 16th of February, 1992 ; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ; and steps to ensure supply of food articles in time before issuing such releases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Delhi Administration has reported that Fair Price Shops have been divided in groups for depositing drafts.

The first group deposited the drafts on 31-1-1992 and the last group deposited the drafts on 20-2-1992.

(d) and (e) No Sir. Delhi Administration has reported that during the period 5-2-1992 to 10-2-1992

about 535,40 bags of Agmark Atta in 10 Kg. consumer packs have been supplied to Fair Price Shops for distribution to the consumers Monitoring arrangements have been made by the Delhi Administration regarding the supply and availability of commodities at the PDS outlets. The progress in the lifting of Atta would be reviewed and depending on the consumer preference, Delhi Administration would make arrangements for sale of wholemeal atta to consumers.

Non-availability of quota to Fair price Shops

435. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fair Price Shops under the Public Distribution System in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and other places in the country have not received their full quota of essential commodities in time during the last few months causing thereby hardships to the consumers ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure timely availability of Essential Commodities to consumers through Fair Price Shops in the country ; particularly in Delhi and Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Allocations of PDS commodities are made by the Central Government to State Governments and UT Administrations in advance so that taey can make arrangements for lifting and distributing them. Many State Governments and UT Administrations, including Madhya Pradesh nd Delhi, lifted more quantity of a ce. wheat and levy sugar in 1991 as compared to 1990. PDS outlets in the country handle millions of tonnes of PDS commodities annually. However, in an operation of such a magnitude, occasional localised dislocations in the functioning of PDS cannot altogether be ruled out.

Regular monitoring of supply and availability of essential commodities under the PDS is done at various levels in the State Administrations, including Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. Action is also taken by them under the Essential Commodities Act against the malpractices detected. The State Governments and UT Administrations have been advised to set up Vigilance Committees at various levels, including village level.

Special courts in States under the Essential Commodities Act

436. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in some States, Special Courts have been constituted to try offenders booked under the Essential Commodities Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have advised all the State Governments including that of Madhya Pradesh to set up Special Courts to deal with hoarders and profiteers in essential commodities ;

(d) if so, what is the response of each State Government in this regard ; and

(e) if answer to part (c) be in negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a), (b) and (d) The information is being collected from State Governments/U.T.